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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL ADJUSTMENT ADMINISTRATION
Washington, D. C.

PROBLEMS OF PEOPLE AND OF SOIL

A series of discussions presented during Department of Agriculture periods in National Farm and Home Hour by officers of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration in the following order:

N. E. Dodd, Director, Western Division
W. G. Finn, Director, East Central Division
I. W. Duggan, Director, Southern Division
A. W. Manchester, Director, Northeast Division
Claude R. Wickard, Director, North Central Division
R. M. Evans, Administrator

FOREWORD

"These Triple-A reports in the Farm and Home program...what do they add up to?" We asked ourselves this question a few weeks ago.

We report on this and that phase of the program, trying to keep the public in touch with all new developments and with the general conduct of this part of the public business. But are we showing the "forest" or are we just showing the "trees"?

Well, we decided we could do our listeners a real service if we'd clarify the objectives of the AAA program. And to do this, we decided to describe each major agricultural region -- to spotlight the major problems in each.

Obviously, the farmers' program cannot help correct all the problems of our national community...not even all the problems confronting farmers. So we decided to point out, as well as we could in the 11-minute periods available, which of the problems the program aims to help correct...and to point out by inference at least the problems with which the program has no direct connection.

We hope we have given you a better vantage point from which to see the "forest" as well as the "trees."

Wayne Darro

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Wayne H. Darro, Director
Division of Information

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FARM PROBLEMS AND THE AAA

Broadcast by N. E. Dodd and Wayne Darrow, Agricultural Adjustment Administration, Tuesday, April 11 1939, in the Department of Agriculture portion, National Farm and Home Program.

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KADDERLY:

Wherever there are people there are pressing human problems. Wherever there are farms, there are problems of people and of soil. Today we bring you a discussion of some of the problems of the people and the soil in one great farming region--the West. We'll hear from N. E. Dodd, Director of the Western Division of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration. Mr. Dodd is the first of five Triple-A directors to take part in a new weekly series of discussions dealing with the various major agricultural regions. Each Tuesday, through May 9, directors of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration will discuss problems of the people they are working with. Then on May 16, Administrator R. M. Evans will sum up for the country as a whole. But now about the West. To discuss western problems with Mr. Dodd, here's Wayne Darrow, who reports to you on the Triple-A farm program each week at this time. Wayne....

DARROW:

Just one comment as I call on Mr. Dodd to bring us his report... It's true the report will deal with the west. But bear in mind that the problems of the west recognize no sectional boundaries. No matter where you live, your own welfare depends in part on how well the Western people come through the present critical period.

Now Mr. Dodd.... Ed, since you're going to talk about the West, and West is such an indefinite term, I'd suggest that you give us first a short, general description of the region you're dealing with.

DODD:

All right, Wayne. When I use the word "west", I'm taking in a vast area from the Great Plains on out over the mountains clear to the Pacific Coast . . . From Canada down to Mexico. I'm talking about 13 big States. Traveling over this great region from east to west, you go through the Great Plains States like North Dakota and Kansas . . . Flat country, not too much rainfall, where big machinery enables one farmer to grow hundreds of acres of wheat . . . Country where great herds of cattle and sheep graze the range. In some parts of the plains, the wind blows and drifts the soil that was once in buffale grass. You cross the mountains with their mines and grazing lands and see the high plains and irrigated valleys. You find great fields of cotton in the Southwest, all of which is irrigated. On the western coast, you find many orchards and vineyards along with wheat and diversified farming. Over the Cascade mountain range and the Sierra in the west, you find highly diversified agriculture . . . olives, nuts, apples, pears, hops, all sorts of things. Altogether, the farmers of the west raise 180 different kinds of crops on a commercial basis.

DARROW:

That's the region . . . now about the people, Ed. You've mentioned soils and crops. But not all the people of the region are farmers.

(over)

DODD:

That's true, Wayne. There are more people who are not farmers than there are who are farmers. But the point is that all westerners are directly or indirectly dependent on agriculture. With the exception of mining, the lumber industry, and fishing out on the coast, agriculture produces practically all the new wealth that's produced in the west.

DARROW:

Taking that point a step further, it's obvious that the people as a whole can't make progress--can't improve their lot--just by trading what was produced in the past. Progress comes with NEW wealth.

DODD:

And NEW wealth comes mainly from the farms.

DARROW:

All right. To follow that reasoning on to its logical conclusion, the main problems of the western people are the problems of agriculture.

DODD:

That's correct.

DARROW:

But there are a great many problems facing western agriculture. The region is so vast, and there are so many farmers . . . and so many types of agriculture --

DODD:

Yes, but you can take in nearly all of the problems under two headings: first, how to get a decent farm income; second, how to conserve the soil.

DARROW:

Which is not to say that these two problems are all that stand between the western people and Utopia . . .

DODD:

Of course not. But how to get decent farm income and how to conserve the soil are, in my opinion, the most immediate and pressing problems facing the western people as a whole. Since we can't discuss all of the crops of the Western States, let's take two of the main ones--wheat and livestock.

DARROW:

Very well. Take livestock. What keeps the range livestock man from making a good income and protecting the grass on the range?

DODD:

Two things, mainly. Consumers do not have money to buy enough meat, and ranchers do not have enough money to maintain and improve their range. Increase of consumer purchasing power depends on all the forces working toward economic recovery. The range operator has a small part in that. But he has the main responsibility for making the range produce. The west

has always been able to produce livestock economically because it had the grass and it had land which did not demand intensive use to make a profit. It still has the land but the grass has been badly hurt by drouth and overgrazing. For many year's livestockmen have realized the need for range conservation, but low returns have handicapped them in doing much about it until recent years. They now have the range conservation program which gives them the chance to do for the ranch what they have always wanted to do. They are now able to take better care of the grass and put range operation on a pretty satisfactory basis. In addition, for the second year, the sheepman has the advantage of the government wool loan that stabilizes the price he gets for his wool.

To sum up: the solution of the main problem facing western livestock producers depends upon national economic improvement and improvement of the range.

DARROW:

Now about wheat. In your opinion, what keeps the wheat growers from getting better income?

DODD:

As a group, wheat growers have stepped up their production far beyond the market requirements. This has cut prices and income. Individual farmers, especially in the plains country, are often dragged down by crop failure. Surplus on one hand--crop failure on the other.

DARROW:

What about the tariff that raises prices farmers pay but does not raise prices farmers get? The increased use of machinery that displaces men and horses? Wouldn't you say that these and other things also contribute toward the wheat farmer's hard times?

DODD:

Certainly. But give the wheat farmer protection against both crop failure and low prices, and he'll make out all right. In one State in the Great Plains over a third of the entire population is on some kind of relief. But let the wheat farmer guarantee himself a crop and let him get a decent price for the crop, and most of those people will soon get off the relief rolls.

DARROW:

Well, those two things you mentioned--a sure crop and better income from wheat--are within the grasp of the average wheat producer now.

DODD:

Yes, they are now, but for the first time. Crop insurance on wheat is now within the reach of every wheat farmer. It wasn't at first because so many who needed insurance had no way to pay the premium. But Congress recently provided that farmers who want to take out insurance can get advance Triple-A payments to pay the crop insurance premium. They can now assure themselves of three-fourths of an average yield every year. In addi-

tion, farmers who take part in the Triple-A program divide the existing wheat market between themselves so that each gets a share of the market. This enables them to stop building up the surplus and will improve the price.

Those who take part in the program also receive payments to help them conserve the soil and payments to offset the disadvantage put on them by the tariff.

These two things together—crop insurance and price protection—give the wheat farmer and the people of the west more hope, and better reason for hope, than they've had in 20 years.

Now, Wayne, you mentioned other things besides surplus and crop failure that hurt wheat farmers. I said, "Improve the price and assure the farmer a crop, and most of the other things will take care of themselves." Here's an example of what I mean: A banker in a spring wheat State told me not long ago that 151 farmers had asked for credit to tide them over 'til harvest. The banker didn't have anywhere near enough money he could afford to lend on the gamble the farmers would get a crop and a reasonable price so they could pay him back. Now it's different. Those farmers can get crop insurance. They know how many bushels they'll have, as a minimum. They don't know how much it will bring. But they do know this: They can get 28 cents a bushel in soil conservation and parity payments. They can look forward to a government wheat loan. And the farmers in that state this year received loans of about 60 cents a bushel. If they got that next year, they'd have at least 88 cents a bushel for wheat. You can't pay off many debts with 88-cent wheat, but you can stand on your own two legs again.

DARROW:

Seems to me, Ed, that taking so much of the gamble out of production and marketing of wheat should do a lot for the towns as well as the farms.

DODD:

You bet it will. If the American wheat farmer had to be like the men who till the soil in other countries—if they were all just hired men or peons—there wouldn't be any use for all the towns we've got. We'd just need a trading post here and there so we could buy beans and calico. More business men are coming to understand that. Professional men too. Just the other day, a doctor told me he had finally stopped to think about this whole business and had convinced himself the farmers are now on the right track. And it's true.

DARROW:

That is, when a farmer is making money he takes care of his health . . . goes to see a doctor when he isn't well. But when he keeps going deeper into debt . . .

DODD:

Then he just buys a nickel's worth of castor oil and hopes he gets to feeling better.

DARROW:

Which is an example of what happens not only to professional people but to business when farm income is much too low.

DODD:

Certainly. Now, as far as I can tell, farm income isn't going to be high enough in the next few years to really solve the problems faced by the western people. There'll still be people who need relief—not so many—but some.

The soil and the range will always have to be handled carefully. Not enough farmers will own their own farms. They'll still need all the credit facilities they've got. The west won't be rolling in wealth. Industry probably will continue to produce less abundantly than agriculture. But the wheat farmers, who produce so much of the new wealth of the west, have it in their power to stabilize their production and improve their income. The range livestock men, the fruit growers, and other farmers also have definite, workable programs to stabilize production or marketings and improve farm income. In doing so, they will do a service for themselves, the west, and the nation at large.

KADDERLY:

This discussion of problems of the western people and how the western farmers are helping solve those problems was brought to us by N. E. Dodd, Director of the Western Division, and Wayne Darrow, Director of Information--both in the Agricultural Adjustment Administration. Next week we'll hear from W. G. Finn, Director of the East Central Division. He will tell us about the tobacco, cotton, and general farming of the East Central States.

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FARM TROUBLES -- AND THE AAA

Broadcast by W. G. Finn and Wayne Darrow, Agricultural Adjustment Administration, Tuesday, April 18, 1939, in the Department of Agriculture period, National Farm and Home Program.

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KADDERLY:

The people and the soil... Under this general topic the five regional directors and the Administrator of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, one by one, are bringing before us some of the problems of the people and the soil in the various major agricultural regions. Today, in the second discussion of this series, the region is the East Central. We'll hear from W. G. Finn, Director of the East Central Division and Wayne Darrow, Director of Information, both in the Agricultural Adjustment Administration. First, Wayne Darrow.

DARROW:

All of us, no matter where we live, buy some goods that are produced in the East Central States. The people who live in these States buy many things produced elsewhere. In a great many ways, the problems faced by the people of the East Central Region are entwined with the problems faced by those who live in other States. So that we all may come to understand better what farmers are trying to accomplish through the national farm program, we are undertaking to give you a glimpse of conditions that exist now in the various regions. So first of all, I'll ask Mr. Finn to tell us a little about this one region -- the East Central.

FINN:

Very well, Wayne. This region includes some of the oldest farm land in the United States. Farmers began to till the soil at Jamestown, Virginia, over 300 years ago.

DARROW:

Since you've mentioned Virginia, suppose you name the other States you include when you talk about the East Central Region.

FINN:

The others are Delaware, Maryland, North Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky, and West Virginia. The region is bounded by the Atlantic Ocean on the east, the Ohio river and Pennsylvania on the north, the Mississippi river on the west, and State lines on the south. Much of the land is hilly or rolling and a considerable amount is in forest. There are many streams. The winters are relatively mild. Alternate freezing and thawing subjects the soil to erosion and makes serious need for winter cover crops. There are few big towns, yet the region is densely populated. On the average, the farm family has only about 30 acres of cropland. To the people of the west, 30 acres of cropland per farm family will sound very small. It might be even more surprising to know that the average acreage of tobacco -- the principal cash crop -- is only 2 to 4 acres per farm.

DARROW:

Two to four acres.... In that case farm income surely can't be very high.

(over)

FINN:

The average cash income per farm family is small. But there are many, many farms which produce hardly anything for sale, yet support the family. On the other hand, there are farms that produce principally cotton or tobacco for sale which grow little or no food and feed to enable the farm family to live at home, as we say. We grow cotton extensively in North Carolina and Tennessee, also in Virginia and Kentucky. We grow tobacco in six of the seven States, all except Delaware. We have some fairly important wheat-producing areas, a good deal of fruit production, especially in the Shenandoah Valley. On the seaboard, we grow early potatoes and vegetables for shipment north and east. We have quite a lot of grazing in some areas.

DARROW:

Leaving farming aside for a moment, tell us what the other people of the region do.

FINN:

Well, we have many people mining coal in the Appalachian regions. On the coast, many are engaged in fishing. We have quite a lumber industry, though there's less lumbering now than there formerly was. The State of North Carolina is dotted with cotton mills using the abundant water power. And the region has a great tobacco manufacturing industry.

DARROW:

This picture of the region, in itself, suggests a number of problems. For one thing, we all know that cotton is bringing very small returns, and that tobacco supplies could easily get out of hand. We also know the land must be conserved and improved if it is to support the farm families and all the others who depend on the products of the soil.

FINN:

Yes, those are some of the problems the East Central people face. Low income from cash crops is one part of the problem. The loss of soil and the wearing out of the land is another part of the problem. These things, together with the exploited forest lands, create problems of diet, health, and housing. Many people don't have enough money to get the right things to eat, to see a doctor when they are sick, or to maintain an adequate place to live. Also, since the region is densely populated, this means the people--especially farmers--have more children to educate than the average for the country. There is an excess of unskilled labor, both colored and white, notwithstanding the fact that cotton, tobacco and other crops in the Region require large amounts of hand labor for production. Wage rates are low. All in all, you can see that the people in the East Central States have some very pressing problems.

DARROW:

Indeed they have. Now, where does the Triple-A farm program fit into this situation? I'll ask you now, if I may, to tell the listeners which of these many problems the farmers are attempting to meet through the Triple-A program.

FINN:

As in other parts of the country, the farmers are working toward better farm income and conservation of the soil. This includes several developments that tend to improve the character of East Central farming.

DARROW:

Tell us about those developments, Bill.

FINN:

One of the major things the farmers are doing is to adjust their acreages of cash crops to keep supplies in balance with consumption. With the decline of export markets, they have put on the brakes, and kept the cotton surplus from growing, they have prevented the building up of big surpluses of tobacco. These acreage adjustments help in several ways: They tend to balance production with market requirements and hence to improve cash income. They enable many farmers to devote surplus-producing acres to the production of food and feed which is needed for home consumption on the farm. They make it possible for farmers to improve land which has been used too hard.

DARROW:

All right. Concerted acreage adjustment is one of the important developments in East Central farming. You also mentioned other new developments in soil conservation... will you tell us about those, please.

FINN:

As I have pointed out, acreage adjustment on cash crop farms prevents waste of fertility and paves the way for soil improvement. But there's more to the conservation program than that. The program encourages all farmers to take steps to protect and build up the land.

DARROW:

May we have some examples?

FINN:

Certainly, East Central farmers are using greatly increased quantities of lime and superphosphate in order to put their land in condition to grow soil conserving crops such as legumes and grasses. Let me tell you about these increases. In the so-called years of prosperity before 1930, farmers in the seven East Central States used not more than a million tons of limestone per year. This dropped to half a million tons a year in 1932 and 1933. In 1936 with the help of the agricultural conservation program, considerably more limestone was used than in any year before the depression. In 1937 and 1938, still more was used. All told, farmers of the Region used about two and a half times as much lime in 1938 as they had in the peak years before the conservation program started. The use of fertilizer on conserving crops and pasture has shown even a bigger increase. You know East Central Farmers for years have used fertilizer to grow cash crops. But before 1936 they used hardly any to grow soil conserving crops. In 1938 they used the equivalent of 230 thousand tons of 16 percent phosphate for this purpose. Soil building payments in the Triple-A program are largely responsible for the increased use of both lime and phosphate. You can see the influence on the winter cover crops which farmers are now plowing under

to improve the soil. You can see the influence of these materials also in the increased acreage of legumes and grasses that add fertility to the soil and keep it from washing down the hills into the streams. There has been a material expansion in the amount of terracing; and the planting of forest trees has been increased. Payments are offered for these essential conservation practices because it is now recognized that the majority of farmers do not have enough income to buy the necessary materials to carry them out.

There are over a million farm families in the seven East Central States. They have seen the need for acreage adjustment, for income improvement, and for practices to hold and improve the soil that has been washing away.

The farmers understand these needs, and last year 85 percent of all the farmland in the region was in the program. We expect about 85 percent to take part again this year.

DARROW:

Summarizing: we have here a very old farming region, much of the soil badly damaged by erosion and loss of fertility... a problem of how to make a small amount of cropland support a heavy population... a problem of improving returns from cash crops and a problem of making so-called self-sufficient farms really meet family needs... a problem of maintaining adequate supplies for consumers.

To meet these problems, we find most of the farmers taking part in the Triple-A program.... adjusting acreages of cash crops.... protecting land from washing.... improving pastures.... improving forests.... renewing soil fertility... doing many things East Central farmers for years have wanted to do... things that low income would not permit them to do without assistance. Is that the picture, Bill?

FINN:

That's true. These well-known principles of good farming are old, but their widespread use is a very significant new development. Although there are many problems the farmers cannot fully meet, as they improve farm income, take care of the soil, and make the farms of the East Central States better places to live, they do their part to help other groups in the region improve their conditions.

KADDERLY:

Ladies and gentlemen, this report on problems facing people of the East Central States, and the part being played by farmers cooperating in the Triple-A farm program to meet these problems --- this report was brought to us by W. G. Finn, Director of the East Central Division, and Wayne Darrow, Director of Information, both in the Agricultural Adjustment Administration.

FARM PROBLEMS----AND THE AAA

Broadcast by I. W. Duggan and Wayne Darrow, Agricultural Administration, Tuesday, April 25, 1939, in the Department of Agriculture period, National Farm and Home Hour.

KADDERLY:

Resuming now, we direct our thoughts to Dixie -- to the land of cotton.

Today in the third discussion of a series dealing with regional and national problems, we'll hear from the man who directs the Triple-A program in nine States of the deep South and the Southwest. I. W. Duggan will discuss some of the main problems now confronting the people of these States, and he'll direct our attention to some of the concerted efforts being made by the people to meet their problems. With Mr. Duggan, here is our regular Triple-A reporter and Director of Information for the Triple-A -- Wayne Darrow.

DARROW:

As I call on Mr. Duggan for his report, I want to point out again that the regional problems we're discussing are also national problems. Therefore, let's see if we can't get a better understanding of the South. Let's go with Mr. Duggan into the Empire of King Cotton.

DUGGAN:

"King Cotton" is in reality a dictator, Darrow. Cotton dictates the income of a third of all the farmers in the United States. It determines the living standard for most of the people in the Cotton Belt. More than ten million people live on cotton farms. Many more millions make their living by working in cotton gins, cotton textile mills, and in other cotton industries.

DARROW:

And cotton is not providing enough income. But before we go into that, Duggan, tell the listeners more about the region you work with, if you please.

DUGGAN:

All right. It takes in the States of South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas. The principal cash crops are cotton, tobacco, wheat, peanuts, rice, truck crops and sugarcane. The region also includes important livestock areas of the Southwest. However, cotton is the most important crop in the region. The States I named grow 85 percent of all the cotton in the country.

DARROW:

At any rate, here's a region of nine States where the growing and marketing of cotton is the principal occupation of the people who live there.

DUGGAN:

That's right. And, of course, the conditions that exist within the region do not end abruptly at State lines.

DARROW:

Of course. And now about this matter of income.

(over)

DUGGAN:

Inevitably the first problem--the most important one in the South--is that of low income. The South has the lowest income of any major region in the United States. It has more people on farms than any other major farming region, and the lowest per capita return from the land.

DARROW:

That leads to a question many people have asked: Why depend so much on cotton? If the people depend on farming, and if cotton won't bring the people adequate living standards and security, why not raise something else?

DUGGAN:

Well, as you know, Darrow--we must frankly admit that we have put too much faith in cotton. One-crop farming is not desirable. But on the other hand, there are very good reasons why we do grow cotton as our main crop. Cotton demands a certain climate, and we have that climate. The South has lots of people, and with this dense population not much cropland is available per family. Cotton fits that situation. It requires much hand labor. Of course, these same things cause many farmers to try to make a living on an acreage that's too small. Even if they got parity price for cotton, they'd still have a low income. In the Southeast 20 acres is a pretty big cotton field. You do well to get eight bales from 20 acres. And if you're a tenant getting half the crop, your share is four bales. Nowadays, you get about 160 dollars for four bales.

DARROW:

Which really is low income. That with dense population and scarcity of cropland leads to still further problems.

DUGGAN:

Yes. Low income makes it especially desirable for farmers to raise as much of their own food as possible. But there's so little cash and so little cropland that many people have a tendency to grow more acres of cotton for cash instead of growing more vegetables for food, or growing feed for home livestock. Moreover, many farm families in the South simply haven't started the habit of growing gardens and canning food or of producing meat, milk and eggs for home consumption. The last farm census revealed that more than 600,000 farms in these 9 States didn't have a garden; and many thousands of farms did not have a cow, a hog, or a chicken. I'm glad to say, however, that more and more Southern farm families are beginning to grow their own food and feed. This will help them stretch the cash income.

DARROW:

So far, Duggan, you haven't mentioned the erosion problem and the need for soil conservation.

DUGGAN:

Just coming to that. The need for cash and the scarcity of cropland encourage intensive cultivation of cotton. This in turn hurts the soil. Much of our land is rolling. We have heavy rainfall and open winters. We've lost and are losing millions of tons of soil a year. Much of the land has been cultivated over a hundred years. It has to be fertilized, and it needs winter cover crops, rotation of crops, and so on.

DARROW:

That adds another item to the list of farm problems. But of course there are some problems not directly or entirely those of agriculture.

DUGGAN:

Yes. For example, we need better housing generally and many things leading to better health. We need more income to spend on our school systems. Another problem is this: For many years, we have been handicapped by the tariff and by high freight rates. Cotton farmers buy goods that are higher than world prices because of the tariff. Yet they can only sell cotton at world prices. More important still --the tariff makes it very difficult for foreign countries to exchange their goods for our cotton. Also freight rates need to be adjusted so the people of the South and Southwest will not be at a disadvantage with other parts of the country.

DARROW:

I think that will suggest the scope of the problems that Southern people are faced with. Now, of course, many forces are at work to correct these problems -- private initiative; community, county and state action; and programs of various federal agencies. One of these forces at work is the Triple-A farm program. If you will, please, Duggan, let's have a report now on what farmers in the program are driving at.

DUGGAN:

Very well. The farmers are seeking to make cotton bring a better income -- the best income that it is possible to get from marketing the crop at home and abroad. At the same time, they're trying to improve their standards of living and health through home production of food and feed. That means they aren't all depending entirely on cotton for their living. In addition they are improving their land, increasing yields, and cutting their costs of production by using soil building practices. Ninety percent of the Southern farmers are working toward these objectives through the farm program.

DARROW:

Those are the objectives. Now the cotton situation and the efforts to improve it.

DUGGAN:

This August before the 1939 crop is harvested the carryover will be larger than the total world consumption of American cotton for an entire year. This surplus was largely accumulated as a result of the record crop in 1937. Last year Congress enacted the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938 which gave farmers the power to use marketing quotas. Marketings in 1938 were six million bales less than in the previous year and more nearly in line with consumption. However, because of the surplus already on hand, the price received was only about half of parity. Had it not been for the cotton loan, the price would have been considerably lower. Even with the low loan rate, foreign countries undercut our price in foreign markets. For half a century, foreign countries have been increasing their acreage and production. Because of cut prices and other factors we haven't exported our normal proportion this season. In fact, exports have been the smallest in over fifty years. By one means or another, we expect to get our fair share of the world market. We also expect to find a way to get rid of some of the cotton now stored under government loan, without hurting the domestic cotton market.

Meanwhile, the farmers are earning soil conservation payments for planting within their acreage allotments for cotton and other soil depleting crops. The payments and the release of part of the land from cotton enable all farmers to grow more food and feed crops for use at home. The farmers are also enabled to plant crops that hold the soil and replace lost fertility. There has been a great increase in the use of lime and phosphates for the growing of soil conserving crops in the last few years ... a great increase in the acreage of legumes, especially winter legumes and green manure crops. These hold the soil in place during the winter and replace materials taken out of the soil by cultivation and cropping.

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Another feature of the program which I have not mentioned is the parity or price adjustment payments. These payments are designed to make up in part for the low world price of cotton and the tariff and other handicaps that cotton producers have. These payments have been an important factor in increasing the purchasing power of cotton farmers for the goods and services of labor, business and industry.

In short, through control of marketing and through payments, Southern farmers are receiving a better income than they could receive otherwise. They are conserving and rebuilding the soil, and producing more of the food and feed they need at home. What they are doing will help solve Southern problems.

KADDERLY:

Farm and Home friends, this discussion of Southern regional problems was brought to us by Ivy W. Duggan, Director of the Scuthern Division, and Wayne Darrow, Director of the Division of Information, both in the Agricultural Adjustment Administration. Next Tuesday we'll hear from A. W. Manchester, Director of the Northeast Division of the AAA --- as this series is continued --- a series that is based on regional farm problems that are of national significance.

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FARM PROBLEMS AND THE AAA

A discussion by A. W. Manchester and Wayne Darrow, Agricultural Adjustment Administration, broadcast Tuesday, May 2, 1939, in the Department of Agriculture period, National Farm and Home Hour.

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KADDERLY:

Now we should like to direct your attention to problems other than of insect control to problems of the people and of the soil. As we bring you the fourth in a series of six weekly reports on the influence of farm problems in the lives of the people in the major agricultural regions. Today the region is the Northeast, and we'll hear from A. W. Manchester, Director of the Northeast Division of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration. To carry on the discussion with Mr. Manchester, here's our regular Triple-A reporter, Wayne Darrow.

DARROW:

The first three discussions of this series have brought out one thing in common. In the West, the East Central States, and the South we have seen that the problems of the farmer are problems of all the people. We have also seen that the problems of each of those three regions affect the welfare of all of us, wherever we may live. Now we come to the Northeastern States, and here we find a somewhat different situation. I'm going to ask Mr. Manchester first to explain the difference.

MANCHESTER:

All right, Wayne. There's bound to be a difference between an area where only 1 person in 16 lives on a farm, as is true for the Northeast, and a State like TEXAS, where 2 out of 5 belong to a farm family. As an extreme case, we have Rhode Island where only 1 person out of 66 lives on a farm.

DARROW:

It is plain that that makes a difference.

MANCHESTER:

But not so much difference as one might think at first. It may be true, for instance, that there's only one farmer among every 10 or 20 customers of a store in a New England manufacturing town. But it may be equally true that one out of every two customers of that store is employed in a mill that sells its products to the farming areas of the South and West. In that case, the amount of money that the millhand has to spend and the amount of sales that store makes depends quite largely on whether the farming areas of the South and West are buying the products of that mill.

DARROW:

Allen, I remember seeing some figures to the effect that shipments from Northern mills to the South practically doubled when the price of cotton went up a few years ago.

MANCHESTER:

That's true, Wayne. That illustrates what I meant when I said that northeastern people depend on the buying power of southern and western farming areas. I can also think of another example: From 1932 to 1935, farm cash income for the country rose 58 percent. In the corresponding period, shipments of manufactured things from the North and East increased 60 percent. Northeastern people in general depend on farm buying power in the whole country more than they depend on the farm buying power of their own region.

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DARROW:

And yet, Northeastern agriculture is very important in itself.

MANCHESTER:

Oh, yes. We have in the Northeast only about 7 percent of the nation's farm people, but we produce from 10 to 12 percent of the value of farm products sold in the entire country. You started out in life as a Northeasterner yourself, I believe, Wayne. . . .

DARROW:

Yes, I did.

MANCHESTER:

You naturally know that a stranger can drive through much of New England and even through many parts of your native New York State and not see anything that will look to him like a farm. Yet a surprising number of people make a living off that land and large amounts of local farm products move into the neighboring towns and cities.

DARROW:

Yes, I know that tourists get the impression that New England is all towns or scenery or history or perhaps roadside stands trying to catch the dollar of the traveler. Suppose you tell the listeners a little more about the farming that you and I know is there.

MANCHESTER:

About the best single statement that I can make is that Northeastern farmers have tended more and more to produce the bulky, perishable products. They have been cashing in on their advantage of being close to the cities and towns.

DARROW:

By "bulky perishables" I suppose you mean milk and vegetables and fruit.

MANCHESTER:

Plus fresh eggs and poultry. Eggs and poultry may not be so bulky but they are perishable.

DARROW:

Of course your greatest farm enterprise is producing milk.

MANCHESTER:

Yes, but it would be misleading if I left the impression that the production of milk and other perishable products makes up all our farming. Some of our richest farm areas, particularly in Pennsylvania and western New York, produce wheat and corn. We even have beef feeding districts.

DARROW:

That gives us a general picture of Northeastern agriculture, Allen. Now I'll ask you to report to the listeners on the farm problems of your region.

MANCHESTER:

Very well. But let me limit my reply to one or two problems that are more closely in the field of our particular activity--the Agricultural Conservation Program.

DARROW:

That still leaves a big enough field.

MANCHESTER:

Yes it does. One of the biggest problems is that arising from the great ups and downs in farm production in other parts of the country. Take the case of the dairy farmer as an instance. Most of our dairymen produce milk for market and the price of that milk is the biggest single thing that decides whether they are poor or prosperous. That price depends in part on local market conditions -- how well the cooperatives are supported and whether marketing agreements are allowed to operate. Our milk prices also depend on the amount of cream shipped into our markets from other areas, and upon the price of butter. This outside competition in the Northeastern dairy markets depends on whether farmers in other areas can make a decent living from hogs and beef cattle, cotton and wheat.

DARROW:

You're saying, then, that ups and downs in production of corn and wheat and cotton create some of the most serious problems of the Northeastern dairymen.

MANCHESTER:

And also for poultrymen and vegetable growers. When farmers can't make a living in the kind of farming that they are used to and prefer, they turn to some other kind. That's one reason why our farsighted farm people are greatly interested in the attempts of those in other sections to keep corn-hog farming, wheat farming, cotton farming, and other kinds of farming on a paying basis and are willing to lend a hand where they can. When these other farms get into difficulties, they compete with Northeastern farmers.

DARROW:

That's one type of Northeast farm problem: Ups and downs in farm production in other parts of the country. Now if we may, let's have a look at problems that call for action on Northeastern farms themselves: For example, the need for conservation.

MANCHESTER:

Well, our people are very much interested in keeping their farms good. I think that more than in most other parts of the country they think of the farm as a place where the family settles down to make a living, perhaps for generations. Some people have wondered why Northeastern farmers use so much paint on their barns and houses. The answer is that well-painted buildings to them are proof that the owner takes care of his property. They take part in the conservation program because it enables them to maintain fields, pastures and forests in a state of lasting productivity.

DARROW:

And conservation is something that Northeastern farmers do take seriously. But that's just one need, and I know there are other problems that Northeastern farmers are up against.

MANCHESTER:

Yes -- one particularly, Wayne. Quite a long while ago, we learned that the legumes -- the clovers and alfalfa -- help maintain the fertility of the soil and reduce the costs of feeding livestock, particularly dairy cows. But when I was a boy in the Northeast we couldn't raise clover.

DARROW:

Couldn't raise clover!

MANCHESTER:

Not fields of it -- just scattered plants here and there. We said that the land was "clover sick." We later learned the land had grown sour and had lost its supplies of phosphorus during 200 years of cropping or grazing. Still later we found that the dairy farmers who succeeded in raising legumes abundantly and in restoring good stands of white clover in their pastures cut their cash outlay for feed to a half or a third of former amounts. But few farmers took advantage of this knowledge. Farmers of the Middle-Western dairy States produce from a ton and a half to two tons of alfalfa hay each year for each cow, but we in the Northeast produce only about a third of a ton.

DARROW:

How do you account for that?

MANCHESTER:

Simply that it was very much harder for us in the Northeast to apply our knowledge about clover and alfalfa. Our soils had been worked much longer and the soil had lost larger amounts of the elements necessary to grow legumes. We needed to apply large amounts of lime and phosphorus to the soil. Yet lime cost much more in our region than in some others. The result was that for the farmers -- particularly those with whom dollars were not too abundant -- the expense of starting to grow legumes made it nearly impossible.

DARROW:

But now the government goes partners with the farmer in helping bear the expense of a conservation program.

MANCHESTER:

Yes, that's it! -- and to me the results are already amazing. It isn't at all unusual for counties and even States to report that they are now using 10 times the amount of lime that they used before the the program. For a long time, just a few leading farmers could use lime and other such materials. But now, in some of our dairy States, as high as 90 percent of the active farmers are sharing in the program and using the needed soil materials.

DARROW:

Ninety percent in some States By the way, I understand that more farmers in all the Northeastern States are planning to take part in the program this year.

MANCHESTER:

That's true, Wayne. Estimates received this week from the States indicate about a 30-percent increase over last year. In the region as a whole, about 70 percent of the active farmers will carry out conservation measures under the program.

DARROW:

That should mean still further progress toward meeting some of these Northeastern farm problems that you've been telling us about.

MANCHESTER:

You're right. The program will help Northeastern farmers put their knowledge of good farming into still further practice. But let me point out again that part of our farm problem must be solved outside the Northeastern States. The Northeastern farmers and Northeastern people in general have much to gain from better balanced farming and better farm income over the entire country.

KADDERLY:

This discussion of Northeastern farm problems in relation to the economic life of the Northeastern people was presented by Allen W. Manchester, Director of the Northeast Division, and Wayne Darrow, Director of Information, both in the Agricultural Adjustment Administration. Next week at this time, we'll hear from Claude R. Wickard, Director of the North Central Division of the Triple A.

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FARM PROBLEMS AND THE AAA

Interview between Claude R. Wickard and Wayne Darrow, Agricultural Adjustment Administration, broadcast Tuesday, May 9, 1939, in the Department of Agriculture period, National Farm and Home Hour.

KADDERLY:

Now, we direct your attention to problems of the people in the Middle West. We bring you the fifth in a series of six discussions on problems of people and of soil. Today we'll hear from Claude R. Wickard, Director of the North Central Division, of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration. And with us again is our regular Triple-A reporter -- Wayne Darrow.

DARROW:

In the past four weeks, we've taken a look at the West, the East, and the South. Now we come to the Corn Belt - and to the northern lake States. I'll ask Claude Wickard first to give us a general description of the region.

WICKARD:

The Middle West is both like and unlike any other region. Our farming provides work for a great many people. In that way, we're like the West and the South. On the other hand, we have many factories and mills and packing plants that employ hundreds of thousands of people. In this way, we're like the Northeast.

DARROW:

Name the States you're talking about . . . will you, Claude?

WICKARD:

I'm talking about Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Michigan, with their cities of Chicago, Detroit, Cleveland, Toledo, Gary. These are all big names in the industrial world. I'm also talking about Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska, and South Dakota. These States are known in part for their industries but mainly for their agriculture.

DARROW:

It seems to me you've pointed out one very important characteristic of the Middle West - the fact that farms and factories rub elbows. Behind that lies the fact that the region contains the Great Lakes, the Mississippi River, the Ohio River, other streams, and a vast network of railroads. These things, together with central location, make the region a "natural" in manufacturing.

WICKARD:

It's also a "natural" for food production. The lake States are the major dairy region of the Mid-West. They have rather cool climate and short growing season. The soil supports a heavy stand of grass and alfalfa and clover. The lake States are also a general farming section - livestock, potatoes, small grains and so on.

Just to the South lies the Corn Belt. It's a belt of warm, productive soil. It's level land and it has a climate that's almost ideal for corn production. Small grains and hay and pasture crops are also important. But 65 percent of the nation's corn is grown in the Corn Belt. This is the only large area that produces surplus corn. We market most of our corn on the hoof - that is, by feeding it to livestock. Many of our Corn Belt farms are like factories. They bring in raw

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materials in the form of range livestock and turn out a finished product in the form of corn-fed meat.

DARROW:

To sum up those statements, the Middle West provides the nation with supplies of butterfat and cheese, potatoes, corn, beef and pork.

WICKARD:

Also sugar beets and wheat - that's the farming. As for industries, the Middle West provides farm machinery, automobiles, rubber tires, and steel. And our Middle West meat packing industries employ thousands of workers.

DARROW:

So much for the region in general. Now, let's direct our thoughts to the people who make the farms and the factories of the Middle West produce - to the problems that those people are up against.

WICKARD:

All right, Wayne. One basic problem we're all up against is lack of purchasing power. Our farms and factories are highly developed. The farms and factories are capable of serving a rapidly improving standard of living for the people of the nation. Yet we have unemployment in the cities, and on the farms we have low income and neglected soil. I won't go into the city problems, as such, but I do want to point out the more important problems that affect both farm and city people.

DARROW:

Go right ahead. You've mentioned low farm income and loss of soil fertility - but those are results of many unsolved problems.

WICKARD:

You're right. And one thing that makes income low and hurts the soil is our continued production of surplus corn. Surplus corn means surplus pork. When we've got too much corn, we raise and feed too many hogs. We feed more beef cattle and sheep. Then when meat prices go so low there's no profit in fattening livestock, we increase our herds of dairy cows and flocks of poultry. In that way, the Corn Belt farmer helps ruin the milk market and the poultry and egg market for farmers who are normally in the dairy and poultry business.

DARROW:

Because of surplus corn But, some of our listeners are asking, "How come we have surplus corn?"

WICKARD:

The answer is that we've become more efficient, and at the same time we have lost big chunks of our market - both at home and abroad.

DARROW:

Let's have an example of increased efficiency.

WICKARD:

All right. Take corn production. Within the last 3 or 4 years the use of hybrid seed corn has become very common throughout the Corn Belt. Last year a third of all the corn planted in the Corn Belt States was this new higher yielding hybrid corn. And in Iowa, Illinois and Indiana, half the corn was hybrid. Now, hybrid

CORN YIELDS AN ESTIMATED 7 TO 15 PERCENT MORE THAN THE REGULAR VARIETIES.

DARROW:

I believe you made a big yield on your farm in Indiana last year, didn't you Claude? 125 bushels to the acre or thereabouts?

WICKARD:

Yes, I did on a test plot of 5 acres.

DARROW:

Well, that's one example of efficiency in corn production. Now for pig production -- that's also more efficient, isn't it?

WICKARD:

You bet. In 1924 we were saving an average of 5 and a fourth pigs per litter. In 1928 we raised an average of over 6 and a third pigs per litter. That's a 20 percent increase in efficiency in 15 years. But think of the market. Since the World War period, forces beyond the control of the farmer have lost us more than 75 percent of our export market for pork and lard. And remember that represents a loss of market for corn. Then consider what's been happening to the eating habits of people in this country. The average person is eating about 9 pounds less pork per year than each person ate 20 years ago.

DARROW:

And that isn't the whole story yet. New farm machinery is increasing the amount of various commodities that one man can produce. We are using fewer horses and thus losing one outlet for corn. Farmers have learned to feed young beef animals so they gain more in a year. So it goes... on and on.

WICKARD:

I can give you a personal example of that statement you made about farm machinery, Wayne.

DARROW:

Let's have it.

WICKARD:

I got a new tractor this spring, after using the old one for eleven seasons. The new one is the same size and model as the old one, but the new one has rubber tires, a better carburetor and so forth. And this new one does about half again as much work in the same length of time on about the same amount of fuel.

DARROW:

Half again as much work... If we multiply that one example several thousand times... why, this one change alone is almost an industrial revolution.

And the list of problems doesn't stop there. For one thing, many farmers have lost their farms and are now tenants without assurance but what they'll have to move every year.

WICKARD:

Yes, and remember the soil. Intensive corn farming has hurt many acres. In the past, every time prices dropped so that it took more bushels of corn to meet

expenses, corn acreage increased. The average corn field will lose a lot of soil in a heavy rain. Also, we waste plant food when we raise a surplus of corn. More efficient tractors, better machinery, and improved seed make it easier for us to exploit our soil at a more rapid rate. The bigger the corn crop, the more plant food it takes out of the soil.

DARROW:

Well, Claude, we've now mentioned some of the most serious middle western problems, as the farm people see them. In just a moment, I'm going to ask you to report to the listeners on how the farmers are using the Triple-A program to meet part of these problems. But first, I want to make it plain that the Triple-A program is not put forward as a panacea for all the problems of the middlewest. There are many forces at work to meet these problems -- the forces include private initiative; community and county action, State action; the work of federal agencies; and better understanding of the problems . . . Now, Claude -- if you will -- your report on the Triple-A farm program.

WICKARD:

Here it is, Wayne... We recognize that we can now produce more per acre and more per man than we ever could before. Yet our markets are smaller. Therefore, we're using the improved methods and making up for it by cooperating with each other to keep our total acreage of corn and other cash crops in line with market needs. This way farmers can cut expenses, cut waste, and build up the soil that isn't needed for cash crops every year.

We recognize of course that production will go up and down, even if we keep our acreage about the same.

So we have set up an ever-normal granary to protect both farm people and city people against the harmful effects of either surplus or scarcity.

DARROW:

The Corn Belt people have had considerable experience with the ever-normal granary. Give us a progress report, Claude.

WICKARD:

All right. I'll tell you how it's working out this year.

1938 was a good crop year. There was an abundant supply of corn last fall. So instead of dumping the whole crop on the market and ruining the price, many farmers took out a government loan of 57 cents a bushel and put their surplus corn under seal. That gave them the ready cash they had to have last fall, and still let them retain title to their corn. Consequently we have about 250 million bushels of corn in the ever-normal granary. Now if we should have a short crop this year, such as in '34 or '36, we can fall back on that reserve. Those 250 million bushels of reserve corn could be converted into about 25 pounds of pork for every man, woman and child in the United States. At the same time, our acreage adjustment means more fertility is held in the soil. We have an ever-normal granary of grain and we are building up an ever-normal reserve of fertility in the soil.

DARROW:

In other words, the ever-normal granary feature of the Triple-A farm program makes it possible for farmers to provide relatively stable supplies of farm products

year after year. That means more stable food prices to the consumer, more stable income to the farmer.

WICKARD:

That's a very good summary, Wayne, and I want to add just one more thing. Yesterday we received word from each of 10 States in the North Central Region on the number of farmers who had indicated their intention to cooperate in the Triple-A program this year. On May 1 more than 1,600,000 farmers in the North Central Region had signed farm plans, indicating that they intend to adjust their 1939 farming operations to the changed conditions which we have talked about here today.

DARROW:

And that makes 1939 break all records for cooperation with the Triple-A program in the Corn Belt.

KADDERLY:

This report on problems of the people and of soil in the middle west was brought to you by Claude R. Wickard, Director of the North Central Division, and Wayne Darrow, Director of Information in the Agricultural Adjustment Administration. Next Tuesday at this time we'll hear from R. M. Evans, Administrator of the Triple-A.

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FARM PROBLEMS AND THE AAA

Broadcast by R. M. Evans, Administrator, Agricultural Adjustment Administration, Tuesday, May 16, 1939, in the Department of Agriculture portion, National Farm and Home Program.

KADDERLY:

We direct our thoughts now to farm problems and their significance to all of us. During the past five weeks, the regional directors of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration have taken us into each of the five major agricultural regions of the country. They have shown us what the farm problems are and how they affect the people who live in each region. Today we conclude this series with a report dealing with the five regions as one nation. We'll hear from R. M. Evans, Administrator of the Triple-A. Mr. Evans.

EVANS:

We in this big country are 130 million people. All of us depend on the soil. Roughly 30 million of us receive our livelihood directly from agriculture. All hundred and 30 million of us depend on the soil for our food, clothing and shelter.

The 30 million people who produce so much of our new wealth necessarily bear a great responsibility to their fellow men. On the other hand, the 100 million bear great responsibilities to the 30 million. So we are a people of MUTUAL responsibilities. We are also a people of mutual problems. Let us review some of these mutual problems.

Let's see what we are really after--we hundred and thirty million people. It seems to me that what we are all really after is a better standard of living for all of us.....at least a chance to sustain life itself.....we are after greater security.....And in addition we want to be good stewards of our resources for Americans of the future.

Now, to me, it seems a little strange that we must be after those things. We are a big country, a rich country. We are rich in natural resources, in man power, in scientific and technical knowledge. To an observer who had never seen our world, it would seem strange indeed that we have the problems we have. But we do have them.

As you know and I know, there are many things holding us back. It would take a long time even to name the important things. I won't try to do that. But I will summarize a few deep-rooted problems that directly confront the 30 million people who make their living in agriculture. These things affect us all. To give this summary, let me recall to your mind the main points cut of the discussions given previously in this series.

The first discussion dealt with the West. There we saw the dangers to all the people in wheat surplus and resulting low price...instability

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due to crop failure...dust storms in parts of the Great Plains...waste of soil fertility...damage to the range because of drought and overgrazing...the need for larger national income so town and city people can buy meat, fruit, vegetables, and so on.

From the West, the discussions took us to the South. There we noted the big cotton surplus, cotton income still under what it ought to be...dependence of millions of people on this one crop--cotton...damaged crop land...lack of sufficient cropland for the dense farm population...insufficient home production of food and feed...disadvantages brought on by tariff and high freight rates.

From the South, we went to the East Central States--with part of the Southern cotton problem..much dependence on tobacco for cash incomes...ability of tobacco growers to grow much more leaf than the markets will take...soil badly damaged by erosion and long cultivation...need for improvement of cropland to give the dense population an adequate standard of living.

From the East Central States, we went to the Northeast with its big cities...lack of consumer purchasing power for the northeastern farmer's milk, vegetables, poultry and eggs...dependence of the cities and of northeast farmers on farm prosperity of other regions.

Finally, we made a discussion visit to the middle west. There we found mixed dependence on farming and industry...increased farm efficiency to supply curtailed farm markets...the resulting danger of surplus corn, which means cheap corn and surplus pork...the vicious circle of low prices--low income--more corn...more corn--lower prices--lower income...exploitation of the soil to produce unwanted surpluses...low income, instability.

To sum up these conditions around the country: We have a farm income that still isn't adequate. We have a terrific problem of soil erosion and waste of soil fertility.

Those are the problems. Now let's see what the cooperators in the Triple-A program are doing to meet these problems.

First of all, they're doing conservation farming. It costs more, but in the long run it pays. It's the only kind of farming this nation can afford. Without it, even national defense has no meaning. If we don't take better care of our soil in the next fifty years, than we have in the last fifty years, we won't have much for our Army and Navy to defend. Farmers realize the importance of saving the soil. But for more than a generation, they have been driven most of the time to mine the soil just to make both ends meet. You can't put the back forty into grass and clover when you have to meet the note and send the children to school on what money you get from surplus corn, surplus wheat, surplus cotton, or surplus tobacco. You can't overproduce the crops that exhaust the soil and expect to conserve the soil.

... Show me a crop that's being overproduced, and I'll show you a crop that's ruining the land.

Fully half of our cropland is badly in need of soil conservation practices to prevent serious damage. If we use the ordinary kind of farming practices on this land, we mine it and will eventually destroy it. If we continued to farm as we have in the past and still resolved to save the soil, we'd have to reduce our agricultural plant by half. On the other hand, if we use the best farming practices, we can safely cultivate around eight-tenths of our present cropland area.

The Triple-A program is helping farmers do conservation farming. As a result of this and other conservation programs, farmers are resting the land with grasses and legumes as they never have before. They are terracing, contouring. Most important of all, they are stopping the waste of soil that goes with surpluses.

Why is it possible for farmers now to shift to conservation farming when they couldn't do it before?

The answer is that they can now conserve their soil without giving up their income. The people of the United States have recognized that all of us have a stake in the soil. All of us are helping pay the immediate cost of conservation. The farmers welcome the opportunity to conserve, and as their income improves, they'll be able to do even more than they're doing now. And here is another point to remember: A very substantial part of the buying power of the United States comes from the farms and small towns that are dependent on the farms. Therefore, increased farm income helps solve economic problems in the city.

I said that the 30 million are good customers of the 100 million. But they must be more than good customers. They must be abundant producers of the farm products the 100 million need. At the same time, both the 30 million and the 100 million must remember that the harmful effects of farm surpluses are passed along to the cities.

One of agriculture's greatest contributions to the cities is the new system to provide balanced abundance. We call this the Ever-Normal Granary. The nation cannot stand the wasteful gluts and shortages of the past. Farm crop surpluses bring with them surpluses of foreclosures, surpluses of bankruptcies, surpluses of tenancy, surpluses of unemployment, surpluses of distress. Unbalanced abundance is one of the most terrible forms of scarcity.

In the two years 1936 and 1937 when farmers had no adequate program to adjust acreages and marketing to available markets, great surpluses of farm crops grew up. They became very dangerous to the nation. They are still dangerous but far less dangerous than they were.

We now have the best farm legislation ever enacted in this country. After six years of effort, farmers have the tools for meeting surplus problems, income problems, conservation problems. Right now the wheat situation is in the limelight. Wheat farmers are now testing their new program in its entirety for the first time. They used their opportunity to adjust their acreage from a near-record high of 80 million acres in 1938 to a temperate level of around 66 million acres this year.

Just yesterday Secretary Wallace announced that a referendum on wheat marketing quotas will not be necessary. The prospective crop plus carryover is ample to take care of domestic consumption, exports, and ample reserves. But it is not so high as to make marketing quotas necessary to control a wasteful surplus. The wheat situation is much healthier than it was a year ago, and wheat acreage allotments for seedings this fall and next spring will total 62 million acres. That's 7 million acres more than the allotments this year.

We are making a concerted attack on a bundle of problems we refer to as "the agricultural problem." Those farm problems are all intertwined with the problems of all the people. We are making progress. This year nearly six million farmers are cooperating in the Triple-A program. That's about 85 percent of all the farmers in the country and an all-time high.

This is significant because the Triple-A program is the spearhead of the agricultural attack on national insecurity.

As the program grows, we too are growing in understanding of our task and of our neighbors in other regions...and in the cities. I think farmers are proving that even in this strange upset world of today, real abundance...plenty without waste...is a blessing, not a curse. I hope that the better agriculture which is being built will preserve the independent family type farm. We can't afford to lose it, for it is the foundation rock of our democracy.

KADDERLY:

This discussion of farm problems as an important element in our national life was presented by R. M. Evans, Administrator of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration. This brings to a close a series of six reports on problems of people and of soil in the United States. If you would like to have copies of these discussions to examine or to use as guides to your own deeper study of the problems discussed, send a card or letter to the Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. Ask for copies of the series on problems of people and soil. (Repeat)

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